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In his second 'limited war,' Westmoreland claims another victory

CAPITAL SKETCH

By S.J. Masty

"Prior to the suit, we had plenty of evidence of leftist media insurgency in CBS. Obviously, any viewer with more than 75 I.Q. points could see a lot of it on screen, but covert surveillance showed countless copies of 'Jane Fonda's Workout Book' and 'Mother Jones' being stockpiled by Mike Wallace for use in Sunday evening '60 Minutes' raids on American civilians.

"Satellites, using classified infrared and infrapink photography, showed battalions of New York goo-goos in their Gucci black pajama uniforms moving up the CBS corporate ladder, called the Ho Chi Rather Trail. After lengthy consultation, the gen-

eral decided to fight this one like we fought the Vietnam War.

"Now, after a long, \$3 million war, we've reached an honorable solution. We're pulling out," he explained. "We're bringing the lawyers home."

He listed some of the "significant concessions" offered by CBS in exchange for the truce.

"First," he said, "there will be no ideological build-up on the weather broadcasts: You won't be hearing that freak snowstorms in Nebraska are the result of Reagan budget cuts. You might see a 2-hour feature on under-subsidized farmers freezing to death, but that's feature reporting, not weather.

"Next, no politics on game shows or soaps. 'The Price is Right' won't take Social Security benefits away from losing contestants. Mabel, the eternally-pregnant unwed mother on 'The Young and Restless,' won't be mugged on her way to the abortion clinic by someone looking like Sen. Jesse Helms.

The truce agreed to by CBS lawyers was "as good as an apology," said Gen. William C. Westmoreland to Ted Koppel on "Nightline" — but, he added, it would have been nicer if they had actually used the word "apology."

Still, history repeats itself. After dashing conservative hopes and squandering more than \$3 million, Gen. Westmoreland's canceled libel suit against CBS may look like a disaster, but Washington pundits are claiming it is "a stupendous victory" in his "limited war" against the network.

"There's no doubt about it, the general won the war by pursuing a policy of containment," said former Col. Irwin "Doberman" Nerdly, spokesman for the Washington legal firm of Sue, Grabbit and Run.

Col. Nerdly, once the Pentagon aide in charge of campus support for the Vietnam War, explained that the concept of "limited war" is both old and honorable.

"It dates back to such historic American victories against leftism," he said, "as Viet-

nam, the Korean War and the Yalta agreement on the temporary Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe.

"The whole idea of a limited war is not dropping the big one," he continued. "You bash them awhile, they bash you awhile, and then, when everyone's had enough, they agree to mind their own business.

"Obviously, the system works," he added. "When was the last time we got any lip from the North Vietnamese, the North Koreans or the Soviets?"

On nationwide television, Gen. Westmoreland claimed his suit was successful because it exposed the scurrilous stuff that passes for CBS reporting — blatant bias, the retaping of "ideologically ineffective" interviews and editing out salient facts. In fact, the limited war might have been even more successful than that.

This "limited legal war," said Col. Nerdly, "to the best of my recollection, has been, at this point in time, ongoingly successful in moving to contain leftist insurgency in the media.

"Both those issues will be reported on the evening news," he said, "but that's a different department.

"Also, there will be no refugee problem — no boat people fleeing CBS. The main reason is that no conservatives work there.

"Finally, the general will not be subjected to further slander in CBS newscasts or editorials, and CBS is only allowed to use the following statement in explaining the truce: 'By mutual agreement, General William C. Westmoreland has withdrawn his libel suit against this network, which was launched following a 60-Minutes broadcast. His legal defense cost \$3 million and our lawyers were on retainer anyway. Ha ha ha. Nyah-nyah.' "

While others wonder whether America ought to upgrade her arsenal — perhaps making it easier for maligned souls to get redress in libel suits — some people are satisfied.

"It is a moral victory," explained Col. Nerdly, "CBS says they have no territorial claims south of the de-cinematized zone."